



# 2020 TOP 100 GOOD PRACTICE STORY

**Title of the Story:** Pafos Innovative electric city buses & zero-emission

**Destination Name:** *(include any state, province or region)*

PAFOS REGION

**Country:** Cyprus

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**Position:** Executive Manager

**Nomination Category:** *(Please check the boxes that indicate the focus of your story)*

- Culture & Communities
- Environment & Climate
- Nature & Ecotourism
- Islands & Seaside
- Immediate responses in dealing with the COVID -19
- Post COVID -19 recovery
- One of the 17 SDGs\* *(if yes, which one)* Click or tap to choose

\*The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs are integrated—that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. What are the Sustainable Development Goals? <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

For further information on Tourism for SDGs: <http://tourism4sdgs.org/>

Find detailed instructions for submitting good practices [here](#)



# DESCRIBE YOUR GOOD PRACTICE STORY

*Address each aspect of your good practice story in the different sections being specific including relevant quantitative and qualitative information.*

## Issues faced

What was the problem/issue solved with the good practice? Click to add your text

Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility with low-carbon transport in a tourist destination with high tourist flows at peak seasons like Pafos, was an issue that until last year was not addressed seriously. This is mainly a case where, diesel buses carried out circular routes in Pafos town, connecting the main historical monuments and points of interest in the Old Town of Pafos with the accommodation units of the coastal area of Kato Pafos. Those high emission diesel buses were driven through the narrow streets of the old town causing air and noise pollution.

Our main partner Pafos municipality in its effort to solve the problem and reduce CO2 emissions and other gaseous emissions, both for human health and the natural environment, and to promote actions that help reduce the environmental risks, took the initiative with our support to develop an integrated green mobility management system.

Individual objectives of the management system are to create incentives for the use of environmentally friendly urban means of transport, to enhance access to more user-friendly information services in order to increase the accessibility and attractiveness of the areas and to create the right conditions for the adoption of electric mobility in the Pafos Town.

Within those views, Pafos Municipality introduced the first electric bus in Cyprus and installed solar charging stations. The first electric bus has a capacity of 22 seats and provides accessibility for passengers with disabilities. Special green routes of 4 & 5 kilometres respectively have been designed specifically for the promotion of cultural and historical places of interest within the Pafos Town. All passengers can enjoy these green circular routes free of charge from 08:00 -19:00 every day.

## Methods, steps and tools applied

How was the good practice implemented? Click to add your text

- Manage to coordinate all involved parties
- Achieve high level decision from Pafos Municipality and the Ministry of Transport
- Finding resources and funding for the implementation of the action
- Train bus operators
- Involve local Residents and small business of the old town of Pafos
- Inform Tourism Providers about the new Electric Bus Eco routes
- Create awareness to stakeholders, public, visitors and local residents



### Key success factors

What helped you tackle the issues? Click to add your text

- The aim/objective was initially well established from the beginning of this action
- Great coordination between, Pafos Municipality, the Ministry of Transportation, local residents, stakeholders, Pafos Regional Board of Tourism and others
- Intensive work, for a very demanding time schedule
- Pafos Municipality secured the funding of the project through an EU program in a relevant short time

### Lessons learned

While implementing the Good Practice what challenges were faced, and how were they overcome? Click to add your text

The challenges except the planning and implementing of the action were to ensure that these important and improved eco city routes will be marketed effectively in order to improve visitor's awareness and also serve efficiently both visitors and local population. Due to the pandemic service was terminated from March 2020 to June 2020. However, prospects are very encouraging and a significant number of visitors and locals have already started using the electric bus. We estimate to transport during the season, more than 10,000 people.

### Results, achievements and recognitions

What were the qualitative and quantitative results of the good practice? Has it received any rewards? Click to add your text

The main results of Pafos Electric Bus operation was the achievement of low carbon outputs and of course, reducing noise pollution. In addition, we had the opportunity to replace the out-dated static bus signs with smart hi-tech boards The project delivering low-carbon travel and a shift away from the car and also offering alternative low carbon modes more attractive to residents and visitors. In addition, we achieved to:

- Improved bus punctuality and reliability in Pafos old Town
- Increased active travel
- Enhanced street scenes creating a more attractive, safe and welcoming local environment
- Contribute to the sustainability of Pafos Old Town and the destination in general
- Create awareness about Low Carbon & Alternative transport



- Create more awareness about protecting the environment

#### Additional references

Provide links to further information. Pictures and videos should be available for download either from Youtube, Vimeo or other Cloud-based (Google/ One Drive) download URL.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12GnKwlyDrwnS-oYCjMJc00gQwRStNyuf>

